

HINGHAM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you care about the Town of Hingham's open space, affordable housing, historic places...and it's future?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire!

In April 2001, Hingham voters adopted the Community Preservation Act establishing a Community Preservation Fund for **open space, affordable housing and historic preservation**. The Town estimates that the Fund will amount to approximately \$400,000 by the June 30, 2002 fiscal year end, and we anticipate receiving a 100% State match on or about the following October 15th. The Act requires that at least 10% of each year's Community Preservation Fund revenues be spent or set aside for later spending on each of the three Community Preservation categories. The remaining 70% may be allocated among the three categories as the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting see fit.

The Town's Community Preservation Committee is charged with identifying long and short term goals and needs in these three areas, establishing criteria for evaluating proposed initiatives, and making recommendations to Town Meeting for the expenditure of the Fund. The Committee wants to make recommendations that have broad public support and meet a compelling vision of the Town's future. To that end, we are asking citizens of Hingham to complete this Questionnaire expressing their views on how the Town's Community Preservation Fund can best be deployed, both short and long term, to meet our community preservation goals.

QUESTIONNAIRE (Please type in the boxes)

Open Space and Recreation

Question 1. How can the Town's **Open Space** Community Preservation Funds be best used to benefit Hingham? "Open space" includes land that protects a scenic vista, forested land, land that protects wells, aquifers and recharge areas, fields, as well as land used for recreational purposes, including playgrounds and athletic fields (but not stadiums, gymnasiums or similar structures), trails, non-commercial sports, parks, and community gardens. Does one or more of these open space types deserve priority?

If any specific open space parcels come to mind, please describe them below.

Historic Preservation

Question 2. In your opinion, what would be the best way to use the Town's **historic preservation** Community Preservation funds? These funds may be used to acquire, restore and rehabilitate "historic structures and landscapes", defined as any building, structure, vessel or real property that the Hingham Historical Commission determines to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the Town, or that is listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic places. If you feel that historic preservation in certain parts of Town (such as, for example, the waterfront, Hingham Square, Hingham Center or South Main Street) should be emphasized, write them down below.

Do any specific historic structures or landscapes come to mind? If so, please describe them below.

Community Housing

Question 3. What is the best way to use the Town's **community housing** portion of the Community Preservation fund? These funds may be used for the creation, preservation and support of "community housing", defined as housing for both low and moderate income families (including seniors). Eligible activities could include: rental assistance; acquisition of land or buildings to create affordable housing; conversion of existing buildings for community housing; home modifications (including accessibility) to allow seniors to stay in their homes; and grants or loans to provide down payments, assist with closing costs, or subsidize interest rates for qualified buyers.

Question 4. How important do consider the following purposes for which the Town's Community Preservation Fund might be used?

Please check <u>only</u> one box for each item.	Extremely Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Protecting views			
Protecting historic structures and landscapes			
Protecting water supplies			
Linking existing parcels of conservation land			
New Playgrounds and athletic fields			
Hiking and Bicycling trails			
Increasing the supply of affordable housing			
Protecting public access to the waterfront			
Other (describe below)			

What's on your mind?

Question 5. What thoughts or advice do you have for the Community Preservation Committee?

(Optional) Please fill in your name and address below.

Hingham, Massachusetts
(781) _____

Please print out and mail your completed questionnaire to the Community Preservation Committee, c/o the Selectmen's Office, Town Offices, 210 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043, or drop it off at the Library or the Town Clerk's Office.

We thank you for your input.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Susan Berry	(749-0586)	Joe Bierwirth	(749-5054)
Judy Cole	(749-0072)	Sarah Corey	(749-1414)
John Davenport	(749-7826)	Jane Davis	(749-2471)
Tom Maloney	(741-5956)	Kathy Reardon	(749-0162)
Valerie Talmage	(741-5090)		

March, 2002